

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03640 201315Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 /118 W

-----002103 201358Z /50

R 201250Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3640

DEPT. FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS

REF: (A) STATE 136706, (B) 77 KUWAIT 4213, (C) 77 KUWAIT 4085,
(D) 77 KUWAIT 3457, (E) 77 STATE 166470, (F) KUWAIT A-67.

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND RATIONALE BEHIND REQUEST REF A, IT IS
IRRELEVANT FOR KUWAIT. KUWAIT HAS NO EXPORTS OF ANY
CONSEQUENCE OTHER THAN OIL, WHOSE PRICE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO
RELATION TO LABOR STANDARDS WHATSOEVER. VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING
CONSUMED IN KUWAIT IS IMPORTED. LOCAL INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR
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A TINY FRACTION OF GNP AND WHAT LITTLE IMPORT SUBSTITUTING
PRODUCTION THERE IS RECEIVES NO PROTECTION THROUGH SUBSIDIZED
LABOR COSTS. RATHER, THE REVERSE IS THE CASE. KUWAIT'S
MAJOR PROBLEM IS A LACK OF WORKERS. KUWAITIS ARE A
MINORITY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY AND EXPATRIATES MAKE UP
THREE-QUARTERS OF THE LABOR FORCE. THESE EXPATRIATES ARE
HERE BECAUSE WAGES PAID IN KUWAIT ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER

THAN IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. THEIR HIGH WAGES INCREASE
IMPORTS INTO KUWAIT AND HENCE INCREASE RATHER THAN DISRUPT
OR DISTORT INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH KUWAIT.

2. DETAILED INFORMATION ON KUWAIT LABOR LAWS, STANDARDS,
ETC. HAS ALREADY BEEN POUCHED TO NEA/RA AND REPORTED IN
REFS B, C, D, AND F.

3. COMMENT: REPORTING REQUIREMENT LEVIED REF A STRIKES
US AS UNNECESSARY, AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF
BURDEN ON UNDERSTAFFED FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS WHICH SHOULD
BE REVIEWED MORE CAREFULLY WITH COUNTRY DESKS CONCERNED
BEFORE BEING SENT TO THE FIELD.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, STANDARDS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT03640
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Film Number: D780256-1161
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From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780641/aaaabjam.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b453c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2287231
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LABOR STANDARDS
TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, KU
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